FABLES

IN

MONOSYLLABLES

BY

Mrs. *TEACHWELL*;

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

MORALS,

IN

DIALOGUES,

BETWEEN A

MOTHER and CHILDREN.

" Si la nature donne au cerveau d'un enfant, cette souplesse
" qui le rend propre à recevoir toutes sortes d'impressions;
" c'est pour que toutes les idées qu'il peut concevoir, &
" qui lui sont utiles, toutes celles qui se rapportent à son
" bonheur, & doivent l'eclairer un jour sur ses devoirs, s'y
" tracent de bonne heure en caracteres ineffaçables."

ROUSSEAU.

LONDON:

Printed and Sold by JOHN MARSHALL and Co. No. 4,
Aldermary Church Yard, in *Bow-Lane*.

DEDICATION.

To Miſs M---.

MY DEAR GIRL,

YOU are now at the ſame age as my boy was, when I wrote this book for him.

I hear that you take pains to learn what is fit for you, that you read well for your age, and do in all things as your dear mam-ma bids you.

If you be ſo good, we ſhall all love you.

If you go on to take pains to learn to read

well, I will ſend you more books, and they ſhall have nice prints in them, ſuch as I know you will like. I love to pleaſe a good child.

I give you this as a mark of my love, and am,

My dear,

Your Friend.

May 12, 1783.

PREFACE.

FABLES are generally pleasing to children. Since they are so; were it not more advisable to supply them with such as afford *lessons* suited to their age; than to waste our time in debating whether or no Fable-writing be the most desirable mode of instruction?

If I were asked the question, I should answer in the negative.

But let us consider that every book the little boy meets with at school, will present to him Fables, which he will seize with avidity as novelties: Fables, the morals of which are calculated to give

an

an improper bias to his mind; had we not then better indulge him (whilst he is in the nursery) with a few that convey simple Morals adapted to the duties of childhood? I think so; or I had not written these.

Rousseau's remarks upon Fables, as making a part of the Library for Children,* seem to me just: most of his objections militate strongly against all the Fables I ever met with. If I did not hope that these are exempted from his charges I would not offer them to the public, still less would I have presented them to the dear little ones for whom they were written.

* However mistaken, however detestable, many notions of *Rousseau*'s may be; there are useful maxims to be gleaned from his work respecting children. I wish the wheat were separated from the chaff.

THERE muſt always remain one accuſation againſt bles, namely, Falſehood; but ſurely it is eaſily plained to the children, that it is but their own ual favorite ſport of "*making believe*," as they ll feigning viſits, trading, *&c. &c.* with no de-gn to deceive; yet, to guard againſt the ſhadow evil, I have been explicit on that point in ſome the dialogues; leſt the little books ſhould fall to the hands of any poor friendleſs child, and ſen his regard to truth. Now I mention the alogues, I confeſs that I am prepared for ridi-le, ſhould any but a tender mother open my lumes.

I WEAVE *nets* for *inſects*; and if I ſuit my toils my game am I to be derided? Who but ſtoops ith ſatisfaction to lead an infant by the hand? Who but delights to adapt her ſteps to its ſhort d unequal paces? And ſhall we be leſs tender, ſs indulgent to the unformed mind?

A JUDICIOUS mother condescends to prattle wi her children; to mingle in their sports; thus sh infuses ideas in their tender minds, whilst she en gages their affections; yet without relinquishing pa rental authority.

No office is *mean* which concerns the health (*m poreal* or *mental*) of the rising generation.

WHY then do I make apologies for my infan tine dialogues?

DOES it proceed from pride? apprehensive of jes from those who are not aware of their use?

Folly!

Tho

Those who are engaged in educating an infant, ill accept them with ſatisfaction; thoſe who are ot, (nor ever were) will deſpiſe them, and all that n be ſaid in their excuſe.

"Nul de nous n'eſt aſſez philoſophe pour ſavoir ſe mettre à la place d'un enfant."

Yet thoſe who are mothers muſt ſtrive to do it; nd defy the deriſion of ſuch as — "never had a hild."

TO

My LITTLE READERS.

YOU have been good, elſe your mam-ma would not ave bought a new book for ou.

I will tell you a tale. Maſ-r *Brotherton* was a good child.

When

When he was three yea
old, he would bring his boo
and learn to read.

He ſpelt the words thu
b-r-e-a-d —— bread, and
on.

He was apt, and fond of h
book.

One day I met with fom
nice, clear, large print let-ter

nd I cut them out, and uck them on card; then laid hem thus, c-a-t —— cat, -o-g —— dog; and he ſaid he words at ſight.

Was not this nice?

Then it came in my mind o print with a pen for him; o I made tales of the dog, nd the cat, and ſuch ſhort

words --- Should you not jum
for joy? --- He did.

I ſhould have ſent the
to make a book for you,
learn to read in; but the
is one now with a name to
long for you to read (*Imperi*
Spelling-Book:) it is full of print
and tales in ſhort words; ſo th
it muſt be joy to a boy o
girl to learn to read in it.

I wi

I wiſh I had met with ſuch book three or four years ince: I ſpent a great deal of ime, for want of ſuch an one.

You all love a book, and re fond of prints.

One day I bought a book f Fa-bles full of prints; but found it was all in *verſe*: t was ſad ſtuff: I could not ear the Fa-bles, nor the Mo-

William (that was the ſwee boy's name) had a great min to know what the Hen ſaid and what the Ape did; ye he was ſo good, that he woul not aſk the maids to read t him; (as he knew that I di not like the book) bu would look at the prints, an talk of them, and not ſeem to wiſh to read.

As he was ſo good (if you be good, you will be ſure to meet with things to pleaſe you) I wrote ſome Fables in print, with my pen, to ſuit the prints.

I told him that I ſhould not have done this, if he had not been ſo good.

Gueſs how full of joy he was! I think I hear you

ſay, " I wiſh I could ſe
" them !"

Now that is what I am in
hopes you may.

" And will there be prints?"

That I can not tell: I
think there will. But if there
ſhould not; yet you will be
glad to have the book; you
will know that there would

ave been ſome, if it had been right.

You muſt learn to take things as you find them --- to take with thanks what is meant to pleaſe you; though it may not be quite what you wiſh.

I wiſh my book may have prints, as I know it will give you

you the more joy; I am glad to pleaſe a good child.

This was wrote to teach you to be good.

If you be good your friends will love you.

If you be good, God will bleſs you.

FABLES,

FABLES, &c.

DIALOGUE.

LADY.

CAN Ants ſpeak?

BOY.

No Aunt.

LADY.

Can Flies talk?

BOY.

BOY.

No Aunt.

LADY.

Why then does this Book talk of what they ſay?

BOY.

I do not know, Aunt.

LADY.

I will tell you then, my dear. I write in the way that

hat I think will pleaſe a hild.---You love to read of Fox, a Hen, or a Dog; o you not?

BOY.

Yes I do, Aunt.

LADY.

Theſe are all to pleaſe and each you. There is one of the oys and the Frogs.

BOY.

BOY.

Pray may I ſee it?

LADY.

I will find it for you.—
There is the print---look a
it. Now we will read.

FABLE I.

The BOYS *and* FROG.

SOME Boys took up ſtones to pelt a Frog; and thus it ſaid:

" Boys!

"Boys! why do you pel
us? we do not hurt you, no
wiſh to do it.

"You ſhould do as yo
would be done by.

"Would you like to have
ſtone thrown at you?

"Hurt no one; but b
kind and good to all.

"Thin

"Think what you do; we Frogs can feel as well as you Boys. We live in this pond, and do no harm: be good, and leave us here in peace."

DIALOGUE

DIALOGUE.

LADY.

HOW is this? Can Frogs ſpeak?

BOY.

They can croak, and make a noiſe, but they can not ſpeak; can they, Aunt?

LADY

LADY.

No, my dear; but this man
ys for the Frog, what we
nay think the poor thing
ould ſay, if it could ſpeak.

BOY.

Why Aunt?

LADY.

To teach you, my dear.
hope you would not hurt
r vex the things which you

meet with. If you do as yo
wiſh to be done by, you wi
be a good boy; and we ſha
all love you.

BOY.

I wiſh *Jack*, and *Ned*, an
George, to be kind to me:
wiſh them to let me ſee the
things, and play with them.

LADY.

Then you know what you hould do to pleaſe *Jack*, and o pleaſe ---

BOY.

O, yes! Aunt. I ſhould end them my toys and books, nd what is fit for them to ave; and I *will* do ſo.

LADY.

Good child!

BOY.

I love to ſee them full o joy, and ſmile, and jump. I love that they ſhould go out; and I love to go out too, when there is room for me in the coach; or when I may ride.

LADY.

You can not all go at one time: you muſt take your turns. But if each of them feel joy at the ſight of your joy; and

you do the ſame at theirs; then you know all of you are glad at once.

BOY.

Shall we read the next?--- What is it?---O dear! it is the Ant and Fly. Pray let me read that.

FABLE II.

The ANT *and* FLY.

ONE hot day an Ant and a Fly met.

FLY.

FLY.

How you toil all day!

ANT.

And you play all day!

FLY.

I do not love to work.

ANT.

We Ants do. We work hard to get food, and to make a fit place to lodge in.

FLY.

We Flies frisk in the sun: we sing,

"Let's be gay; whilst we may."

ANT.

I lose my time;---pray let me pass.

FABLE III.

The FAWN *and* VINE.

DO as you are bid at all times, though you think you

you are not ſeen. Think of the Fawn.---It had been well for her if ſhe had done ſo.

FABLE.

A MAN put a Fawn in a yard, and ſaid to her,

"You may eat the graſs, and the weeds; but be ſure not to bite this vine."

FAWN.

FAWN.

" I will not hurt a leaf."

Then the Man went out
nd ſhut the gate.

When the Fawn ſaw that
e was gone, ſhe ſaid,

" Well! he will not ſee me
ow, ſo I will pick a few
aves, ſo that they will not
e miſt."

When

When ſhe took hold to bite a dry leaf or two fell off, and made a noiſe.

Then a Dog, who was near to keep the Vine ſafe, ran to ſee what it was.

DOG.

O! I have got you!

FAWN.

Do not hurt me! — I was put in here.

DOG.

You were; but you have ot done as you were bid to o; ſo I may eat you.

FAWN.

O, me! I wiſh I had done s I was bid.

FABLE

FABLE IV.

The APE *and* CAT.

AN Ape loves to do wha
he has ſeen done.

Yo

You love to do what you ave ſeen done.

But you are good; and do ot do all that you ſee done, r wiſh to do; but wait for eave.

An Ape is like a child; ut a *good* child is not like n Ape.

You

You love to pleaſe the dog; and love to ſee the cat glad; you run to the cook and beg for milk to give to her; you would not hurt poor Puſs.

FABLE.

AN Ape had ſeen the maids roaſt nuts; and he had eat ſome, and thought they were nice.

So the firſt time he had ſome nuts, he had a great mind to roaſt them too.

He made a fire in the yard; it would have made you laugh to ſee him fetch his ſticks, and his ſtraw, and then ſet fire to them with a match.

Then he threw in his nuts, and ſtood to watch them.

Bounce! goes one: *Pug* gave a ſkip, and went to take it out; but he found it too hot for his hands.

"What can be done?" ſaid he, "I do not care to go in for the tongs. --- O there is the Cat! --- *Puſs!* how do you do? --- Will you eat a nut?"

"I thank you;" ſaid the Cat, as ſhe came to him.

"You muſt help me to get them out, if you pleaſe," ſaid the Ape; and took the

poor

poor Cat in his arms: in vain did ſhe cry out; but by good luck, the man of the houſe ſaw him, and ſaid:

"Hold, *Pug!*—you may do as you like with your own paws, — they are of no uſe but to play tricks with.——My Cat makes uſe of her's, to catch the mice and rats, which would rob me of my corn, my bread, and my cheeſe."——

Pug took a look at the Man; then he caſt his eye at the nuts; then he gave a grin; ſtill he held the Cat.

Then the man ſaid to him:

"Let my Cat go ---- Spare her paws, and uſe your own; them I can well ſpare ---- but I beg you to ſet *Pug* out of your arms now; ----or I will come and drub you well with this ſtaff!"

FABLE

FABLE V.

The FOX *and the* CROW.

A CROW had got a piece of flesh; a Fox who saw it, knew he could not reach

to get it from her, as ſhe ſat on a tree; and ſhe would be too wiſe to come down, as ſhe knew he was a thief. So he thought a while, then ſaid:

"What a fine bird! plumes as black as jet, which ſhine ſo bright in the Sun that I can ſcarce look at them ----- Can you ſing? —— If your voice" —— He would have ſaid more, but the Crow was

ſo

ſo vain as to ſet out a ſcream, and off ran the Fox with the meat which fell out of her beak.

FABLE VI.

The DOG *and the* SHADOW.

A DOG had got a piece of flesh, --- as he went home he had to cross a small stream ---

he ſun ſhone bright, and he
aw him-ſelf and the meat ſo
lain, that he thought it was
dog with ſome more meat;
nd went to ſnatch at it; but
ropt the piece he had in his
aws, and a pike ſwam off with
t; whilſt he gave a great howl,
nd ſaid, "I am well ſerved,
I ſtole the piece of fleſh, and
an off with it; and now
hat I was got near home to
eat

eat it, I thought to grasp at more, and so have lost all."

FABLE

FABLE VII.

The TWO COCKS.

AN old Cock took his ſon out to ſhew him how to get his food --- "Look," ſaid he,

he, " this is corn, fit for us to eat ---- ſo is *this* ---- and *this* ---- and *that* is a crum, you may eat *that*." The ſon ſaw a jew-el --- " How fine this is!" ſaid he --- " It is fine to look at," ſaid the old one, " but of no uſe to us, it is not good to eat."

SON.

I know it muſt be good, it looks ſo nice.

OLD

OLD COCK.

You muſt not eat it ---- it will kill you if you do.

SON.

I will try it; I will eat part.

OLD COCK.

Take care!

SON.

It is hard, but ſee how nice it looks, if I turn it to the ſun.

OLD

OLD COCK.

I have ſeen it all the day, but I care not for it; do not peck at it

SON.

Once more, juſt to taſte. -- Oh! I die ---- I was a fool not to mind what you ſaid to me.

FABLE

FABLE VIII.

The OLD APE *and her* YOUNG CUBS.

AN Ape who had two Cubs, ſaw a Dog. She ſaid to her-ſelf, "What can I do? --- my

my Cubs can not run ſo faſt
the Dog; and if I take the
both on my back, I can n
get from him with them.
will take one at a time. ---
So do *you* come now ---- y
ſtay by this buſh till I co
back for you."

CUB.

I dare not ſtay.

APE.

The Dog will not ſee y
here.

CU

CUB.

I muſt go too.

APE.

I tell you that you may lie
ſe here ---- but here comes
he Dog, hide! hide!

CUB.

I *will* go. ——

Then the Cub gave a great
mp to get on her back; but

 miſt

miſt his hold, and fell down and the Dog came and ate him up as he lay.

"Ah!" ſaid he, "if I had done as I was bid, I had been ſafe."

FABLE

FABLE IX.

The FOX *and the* CRAB.

DO what thoſe who are old tell you is beſt for you to do.

FABLE.

A CRAB ſaid to her ſons, "Come, we will walk; but do not go far from me, leſt you come to ſome harm."

"I will not," ſaid one.

"Well," ſaid one, "I do not know why we may not go as far as we like: I will not ſtay near: I can take

are of my ſelf, and ſo I will go---I do not know how far."

A Fox who was by, ſaid to her cub, "You may be ure to get that Crab with aſe; for the ſon who will not mind what is ſaid to him, an not come to good; but muſt fall a prey to the firſt who tries to hurt him. --- Go: e will make you a good eal."

FABLE X.

The DOG *and* BEES.

A DOG went to rob a hive. An old Bee came out and ſaid to him:

"Friend! it will be beſt for you to go home — we will not let you rob us."

"I will do as I like," ſaid the Dog; and he would lift the hive up; and try to lick out of the combs.

Then the ſame Bee ſaid:

"Do not ſtrive to get our food; for your *own* ſake do not."

The Dog juſt got a taſte; and it was ſo ſweet and nice, that he was deaf to all that could be ſaid to him.

In vain did the Bee call --- "Why will you force us to ſting you?

"We do not wiſh to hurt you.

"Get from hence whilſt you are well. — Go, go, get you gone.

"If you leave off now, and run from hence; we will not harm you.

"But if you ſtay, and will be ſo bold, we muſt all join to ſting you for your fault."

Then came out a throng of Bees and ſtung him to death.

FABLE

FABLE XI.

The HORSE *and the* STAG.

A STAG is fierce and ſtrong
but is in fear of a Horſe
whe

when a man is on it. We think that a Stag, in a wild ſtate, would be too much for a Horſe.

But a Horſe, by the help of a man, is more than a match for a Stag.

Thus may a child, be too much for a bad man.

A child

A child, who minds all that is ſaid to him, by thoſe who are old, and who know what is beſt for him; *that* child, I ſay, is wiſe by the help of his friends.

Though a child can not judge: a child may do as he is bid, by thoſe who *can*.

There have been bad men who would rob a child of his cloaths.

loaths. --- Now a boy is no
natch for a man in ſtrength.

But a boy who does not
go out of his bounds, but
keeps where he has leave to
be; does not come in the
way of thoſe ſort of men.

Thus you ſee, that a good
boy is too hard for a bad
man.

For

For the man can not catch him to ſtrip him, as long as he ſtays where he is told to ſtay.

FABLE XII.

The FOX *and the* HEN.

A Fox ſaw a Hen in a coop: he knew he could not get at her there --- ſo he thought

thought he would try to make her come out.

"What a fine day!" said he, "sure you will not sit there till night?"

HEN.

Yes, I shall.

FOX.

And why?

HEN.

HEN.

I am put here by thoſe who
eſt know what is fit for me.

FOX.

But you will not be ſo
dull to ſtay: you have ſcarce
air to breathe.

HEN.

Thoſe who put me here,
take care I ſhall have what
air I want; and give me

good food and drink; and a
they mean I ſhould ſtay here
I will not ſtir from hence.

FOX.

What! not to take a wall
with a friend?

HEN.

He can not be a *friend*
who would have me do wha
I am bid *not* to do.

FABLE

FABLE XIII.

The GOOD KID.

ONE day a Goat ſaid to to her Kid,

"My dear, I muſt leave you; but if you mind what I ſay, you will be ſafe."

"I will," ſaid the Kid. "Pray what am I to do?"

GOAT.

If you hear a knock, take care to look out --- be ſure do not go to the door, till you have ſeen who it is that knocks.

As ſoon as the Goat was gone, the Kid ſhut the door, and ſaid, "Now I will do as I am bid; though I do not know why I am told to do ſo."

She ſoon heard a knock; and a voice like the Goat's ſaid,

"My dear, make haſte! let me in! the wolf! the wolf!"

The Kid ran to the door and took hold of the lock—in a fright for the Goat—"But ſtay," ſaid ſhe, "I am to look out firſt."

She did ſo—and what do you think ſhe ſaw?

A great wolf! who thought to cheat her, and get her to let him in---and then he would have made a meal of her

The Kid was wiſe to do as ſhe was bid --- elſe ſhe had ſeen the Goat no more.

Think what joy it was to her to tell the Goat this tale, when ſhe came back!

Think how the Goat did kiſs her! --- how fond ſhe was of her! as ſhe was ſo good.

FABLE XIV.

The LARKS.

A LARK had a neſt in a field of corn.

When

When the corn was ripe, ſhe kept watch all day near the gate.

When ſhe left the neſt, ſhe ſaid, "When I come back, tell me all which you have heard, or ſeen, whilſt I was gone."

And now you ſhall hear ſome talk they had in the neſt --- young things love to prate.

FIRST

FIRST BIRD.

I can not think why we
muſt tell all we hear or ſee.

SECOND BIRD.

That our mo-ther may judge
how long we can be ſafe here.

FIRST BIRD.

I can judge — I ſhall do as
I like.

SECOND

SECOND BIRD.

I ſhall do as I am bid; and then I ſhall be ſafe.

THIRD BIRD.

What will hurt us?

SECOND BIRD.

The men who come to mow the corn, may cut off our heads.

THIRD

THIRD BIRD.

Let us go now — I dare not ſtay.

SECOND BIRD.

We ſhall be told when we ought to go.

Then came the old bird, and ſaid, in a low voice:

MOTHER.

Creep to the hedge --- make no noiſe.

THIRD BIRD.

I dare not ſtir --- the men will get me.

FIRST BIRD.

I ſhall fly: what are my wings for?

SECOND BIRD.

I ſhall creep ſince I am *bid* to creep.

Up flew the pert young bird --- and was ſhot.

The good one did as ſhe was bid---and got ſafe to the next field.

The bird who ſtaid in the neſt---had his head cut off with the ſcythe.

So there was an end of thoſe who would not do as they were bid.

The

The pert one, who thought
e could judge beſt, and he
ho would not truſt to the
are of his mo-ther, they both
ame to a bad end.

The good young Lark flew
p to the ſkies with her mo-
her.

CHILD.

I will not fear to ſtay
here I am told I ſhall be ſafe.

——And

——And I will not do what I am told may hurt me. And I will not ſay, *why* am I bid to do ſo? —— I ſhall think of theſe Larks.

FABLE XV.

The FOX *and* GRAPES.

A FOX went out one day to ſeek for prey.

He ſaw ſome nice Grapes; they were ſo ripe, and black, that he could not go from the vine; but ſtood all day to look at them.

In the mean time, a fine fat hen ſlipt paſt.

A cock crept by at her rump; and got ſafe to her perch.

A duck

A duck ſtole paſt; and went
the place where ſhe was
ſleep.

A fat gooſe paſt cloſe by;
nd made no noiſe.

Thus the Fox miſt the good
neal which he might have
got; and went to his den at
ight, with no food at all.

If he had been wiſe, he woul
not have ſtood to wiſh, an
long in vain.

No --- he would have gon
from the vine, to ſeek fo
ſuch food as he could reach

The Fox was a fool to fe
ſuch a mind to what he coul
not have ——— Do you no
think he was?

CHILD

CHILD.

Yes, ſure.

Then be not you like him:

But take what you are to have --- and be glad.

FABLE XVI.

The BOY *and the* WOLF.

THIS Boy had the care of ſome ſheep.

You know a Wolf will kill
heep --- aye --- and eat them
oo.

The Boy knew, that if he
hould want help, the men
ho were near would come
o him.

You will find that he was
bad Boy.

For he would call out,

"The Wolf! the Wolf! O me! the Wolf will eat up all my ſheep!"

Then the kind men ran to help him --- one with a ſtick --- one with a ſtone, or a ſtaff --- each with what he could ſnatch up, to kill the Wolf.

And when they came --- what do you think? --- there

was

was no Wolf ---- but the Boy would ſtand and laugh, as if he ſhould ſplit his throat.

At laſt the Wolf *did* come --- then the boy ran —

"O dear! — the Wolf is here --- pray come and help me — help! help! --- or I ſhall loſe all my ſheep and lambs — there he goes — I can not keep him out of the fold."

But

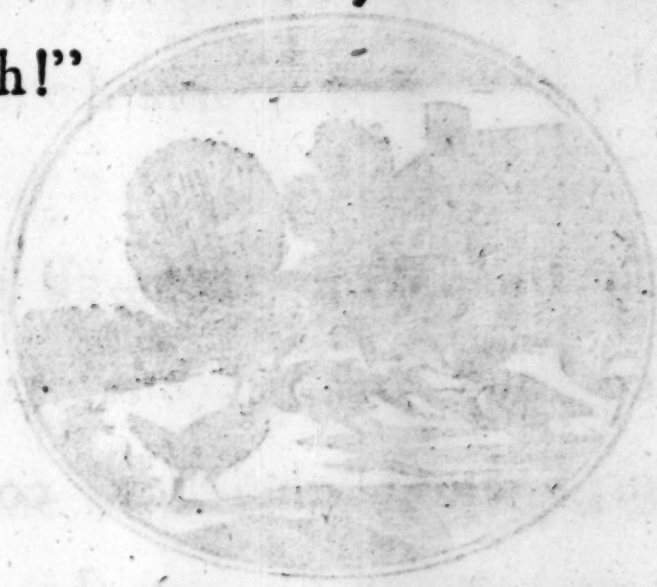
But the men ſaid to him; "Go! go! we will not ſtir—we know you too well---it is all falſe—we know there is no Wolf—we will not be made ſuch fools now!"

So the Wolf took all the ſheep and lambs, one at a time; whilſt the Boy could get no help——No one thought he told the truth, as he *had* told lies.

In

In vain did he call, to thoſe whom he had made ſport with in ſuch a way:

"O! whilſt you live, tell truth!"



FABLE

FABLE XVII.

The VAIN JAY.

AT the time of the year when birds moult, a Jay past

paſt through a farm yard where pea fowls were kept.

"Ah!" ſaid ſhe, "here is a fine plume! --- and here is one! and here!

"I will put them all on."

She did ſo --- and it would have made you laugh, to ſee her ſtrut round the yard, with her long train hung at her rump.

At night the fowls came home to roost, one took a look — one said; "Who is this? Who can this be?" said one.

At last an old sly fowl gave a pluck at the tail, and off came a part. —

Then they all gave a twitch at it; till she was stript, and brought to shame — for she lost her own plumes, as well as

what ſhe ſtole; and was left bare.

Claim not what is not your due.

If you do—you may loſe what you have a right to——

Think of the vain Jay.

END of the FABLES.

Fables *in* Monosyllables.

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